

**Emergency Commission on Sixth Congressional District Gerrymandering
BlackRock Center for the Arts – Germantown, MD**

March 12, 2019

7:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Call to order: 7:04 p.m.

- Chair Walter Olson introduced the Commission. He provided a brief overview of the current status of the Commission's work and explained the scope of their work as outlined in the Executive Order. He then invited members of the public to come to the microphone to share any thoughts or suggestions they might have.
- Speaker #1 from Potomac: Suggested that a little bit of both Potomac and Rockville be kept in the Sixth district. Believed her area has different needs than others and wanted to be kept in the Sixth as it has been for years. Agreed that Damascus should be in the Sixth. Suggested that parts of Frederick County be moved into District One, alongside the top portion of Carroll County.
- Chair Judge Williams asked that those presenting modification suggestions keep in mind that for each addition made to a district, one will need to be removed in exchange to maintain the population number that is required for each district.
- Maury Epner was familiar with the area being discussed and noted that while it may have been put in a specific district for political reasons previously, it is the charge of the Commission to make sure that doesn't happen in their work.
- Speaker #2 from Boyds: Believed the Commission did a good job but felt it was unfortunate that they were not able to redraw all of Maryland in their work. Did not believe the Court Order prohibited redrawing the entire State. Did not believe Carroll County should be in District One.
- Speaker #3 from Germantown: Concerned changes to congressional districts will split Maryland legislative districts. Suggested that Montgomery Village be put back into the Eighth District. Did not believe Carroll County fits with Frederick and Montgomery Counties. Suggested switching the portion of Carroll County with Montgomery Village.
- Walter Olson informed the attendees of the upcoming public hearing at Hagerstown Community College on March 20th.
- Speaker #4 from West Friendship: Was very pleased with the map. Her group in Howard County supports it. Stated that as long as the process is transparent, this Commission and its work has been a model on how to address the issue. Shared that she looks forward to when similar work can be done statewide.
- Speaker #5 from Germantown: Had concerns about the timeframe of the public being able to submit their own maps and submit comments. Wanted more consideration to be given for outreach and communication methods used. Suggested the Commission elevate advertising.
- Walter Olson informed the audience that the speedy process was in part because of the legislature being in session. The Commission's task was to

develop a potential map and to do so in a timeframe that the legislative body could weigh in.

- Speaker #6 from Germantown: Expressed thanks to the Commission and stated that he believed they did a comprehensive job. Wanted to know how the General Assembly could affect the process going forward.
- Luis Gutierrez stated that the Commission is only able to control what they can control. The Commission has its own charge and tried to embody a fair and transparent process.
- Maury Epner was reminded of what Judge Williams had said at the first meeting; that although they were unsure how the situation would play out, their efforts could serve as a model for the future.
- Speaker #4 from West Friendship: Reminded the audience that if they had concerns about the map not being moved forward by the General Assembly, to contact their legislators by phone and email and ask them to accept the map as presented.
- Judge Williams noted that this is a hot button issue all over the country. However, none of this Commission's deliberations touched on politics.
- It was announced that there was another public hearing to be followed by final deliberations. Everything has and will continue to be livestreamed and transparent.
- Walter Olson thanked the audience for participating. He also encouraged that they watch the livestreams from the previous meetings and public hearings as it may help explain why the Commission made the decisions they did.
- Speaker #7 from Rockville: Had listened in to a previous Commission meeting and was impressed with the Commission's objectivity. He congratulated them on a fair and balanced effort on their part.
- Speaker #8 from Germantown: Asked for clarification on whether a specific target population number was needed to reach per district. If so, what are the numbers for the Sixth and Eighth district in the Commission's proposal? It was confirmed that the proposed districts meet the target number.

Meeting adjourned: 7:42 p.m.